

R E M A R K S

This is a Divisional Application of application Serial No. 09/598,605.

In the March 2, 2001 Office Action in parent application Serial No. 09/598,605, there was a Restriction Requirement under 35 USC 121. The claims in the Divisional Application are directed to the claims of non-elected Group II.

The specification was amended to update the status of the application.

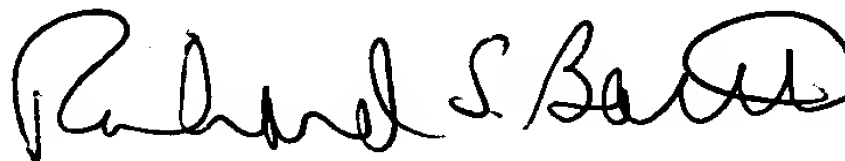
Claims 24 to 27 were editorially revised. Enclosed is a MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS.

New claim 38 recites the features of claim 26.

New claims 39 and 40 recite features of claim 27.

New claim 41 is supported in the specification on page 54, lines 4 to 8.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

24. (Amended) A smelting reduction method[,] comprising [the steps of]:

(a) charging a carbonaceous material and [ores] an ore into a reacting furnace [having a function of] to directly [contacting] contact the carbonaceous material and the [ores] ore;

(b) reducing the [ores] ore until at least [one] a part of the [ores] ore is metallized, the resultant reduced [ores] ore containing at least [one] a part of the metallized metal being produced;

(c) charging the carbonaceous material [from the reducing step (b)] and the [ores] ore containing at least [one] a part of the metallized metal from step (b) into a smelting furnace [of] having a metal bath [type]; and

(d) blowing a gas containing 20% or more of oxygen [20% or more] into the metal bath in the smelting furnace [of metal bath] to produce molten iron.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising charging carbonaceous material and pre-reduced [ores] ore into the metal bath of the smelting furnace [of metal bath type].

26. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the carbonaceous material [to be] charged into the reacting furnace [has] is in an amount which is stoichiometrically [an amount] sufficient for reducing and metallizing all [amount] of the [ores] ore charged [in] into the reacting furnace.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the reacting furnace is a rotary kiln [type] furnace or a rotary hearth [type] furnace.